(a) whether an enhanced international price is being fixed on the OPEC formula for cardamon; and

(b) if so, the details of the same and the steps taken to give a more reasonable remunerative price to cardamom growers to encourage them to grow more cardamom?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Spices Board is implementing a number of developmental schemes to encourage cardamom growers to grow more cardamom and increase productivity. However, the return to the growers on their produce depends on many factors like domestic demand, international market situation, crop availability etc.

Purchase of Cardamom

2173. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been initiated with regard to his statement 2-3 months ago at Madurai that STC and CTC will be asked to purchase cardamom from the caradmom growers at an agreed price for export purposes;

(b) if so, how much caradamom has since been purchased by STC and CTC during the above period; and

(c) if no action has been taken, will Government take necessary steps to encourage the cardamom growers by purchasing at lest from the beginning of the next year, as there are no foreign orders for cardamom?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The STC and CTCL have already initiated action in this regard and have procured a quantity of 6906 Kgs and 100334.9 Kgs. respectively till 11-3-1987.

(c) Does not arise.

Death of a Delhi Police Constable

2174. SHRI DEBENDRA NATH BARMAN:

SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the relief given by the Government to the family of the Delhi Police constable who jumped to death recently;

(b) what are the reasons for such extreme action taken by the said constable;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry to know the reasons for such action; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the findings and if not, what are the reasons for not conducting an inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: (a) In addition to the normal pensionary benefits admissible to the family of the deceased, a maintenance allowance of Rs. 200/- per month has been sanctioned from the Delhi Police Mutual Benefit fund.

(b) to (d) The deceased has left behind a suicide note in which he has written that he was ending his life as he was unable to bear the after effects caused by the Olium Gas leakage in December, 1986.

Staff Strength of Ashok Hotel New Delhi

2175. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether staff strength in each category of workmen as well as officers has been fixed in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi; and

(b) if so, when and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The sanctoned strength of the executive and non-executive levels has been fixed for optimum level of operations. The posts in both these levels are filled up within the sanctioned limits as per the business requirements an doperational needs of the Hotel from time to time.

The Standard Labour Force of Ashok Hotel has been fixed at 1718 and the sanctioned strength of officers in the Hotel has been fixed at 94.

Posts of Officers and Workmen lying vacant in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi

2176. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the number of posts lying vacant in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi in workmen as well as officers' categories, the dates from which such posts are lying vacant and the reasons for not filling up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): The Standard Labour Force of Ashok Hotel was fixed at 1718 in the year 1977 keeping in view the future needs and expansion programme of the Hotel. This limit was fixed for optimum level of operations. The posts in the Hotel are being subsequently filled up as per the operational level/ business requirements of the Hotel from time to time. At present the working labour force of Ashok Hotel is 1481.

The sanctioned strength of officers in Ashok Hotel is 94. At the Executive level also, the posts are filled up as explained above. The present incumbency of officers in the Hotel is 80. The existing work force comprising of officers and workers is commensurate with the existing operating level.

Concession on Room Tariff allowed in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi

2177. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the total amount of concession allowed in any shape on room tariff in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi from April, 1986 to 31st January, 1987 with the split up of normal commission and concessions not covered under "normal commission and rebate"?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): During April, 1986 to January, 1987, the total concession allowed by way of normal discounts/commission/rebates on room tariff was of the order of Rs. 65.73 lakhs against the total net room revenue of Rs. 716.10 lakhs. No concession was allowed in Ashok Hotel other than the normal commission/rebate, etc.

Allotment of Rooms to Officers of ITDC in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi

2178 SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 40 rooms (single, double, luxry) in Ashok Hotel, New Delh have been allotted to officers belonging to ITDC to use as office accommodation/office-cum-residence/residence purpose; and

(b) if so what is the justification thereof and the loss of revenue in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) and (b) In Ashok Hotel, New Delhi 23 rooms are being used by the Hotel Sales and Hotel Engineering Wings of the Hotels Division of the Corporation besides 3 rooms being utilised by the Ashok Hotel for office purposes.

Residential accommodation to three officers in Ashok Hotel comprising two suites and 5 room has been allotted as per practice in the industry.

The above arrangements have been made by ITDC keeping in view the overall business and managerial aspects.